In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An end effector apparatus comprising:

a flexible insertion section, a distal portion of which is configured for insertion to a target site within a living body;

a handle at a proximal end of the insertion section which remains outside the body when the distal portion of the insertion section is inserted into the body to the target site;

a deflecting mechanism at a distal end of the insertion section, the deflecting mechanism having a proximal member and a distal member pivotally coupled to one another and open to one another via a proximal end gap in the proximal end of the distal member and a distal end gap in the distal end of the proximal member, the proximal and distal members including proximal and distal side gaps, respectively, the proximal side gap extending to the distal end of the proximal member laterally of the distal end gap and the distal side gap extending to the proximal end of the distal member laterally of the proximal end gap to form a continuous opening with the proximal side gap;

an end effector assembly coupled to the distal end of the deflecting mechanism;

a first actuator member extending from the handle through the insertion section to couple to the distal member so that actuation of the first actuator member pivots the distal member relative to the proximal member between a longitudinally aligned configuration and a deflected configuration; and

a second actuator member extending from the handle through the insertion section to the end effector assembly to actuate the end effector assembly

a proximal opening and a side gap defined by the deflecting mechanism, wherein each of the first and second actuator members extends between the proximal and distal members via the distal and proximal end gaps when the proximal and distal members are in the longitudinally aligned configuration and extend therebetween via the proximal and distal side gaps when the proximal and distal members are in the deflected configuration.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first actuator member is a wire.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the wire extends through a lumen defined by the deflecting mechanism.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the wire is coupled to the deflecting mechanism to allow the wire to move within the lumen.

7 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second actuator member is a wire.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the wire extends through a lumen defined

by the deflecting mechanism.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the wire is coupled to the deflecting mechanism to allow the wire to move within the lumen.

13 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal member pivots relative to the proximal member about at least one pin extending through holes defined by the proximal and distal portions.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly includes a grasper.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly includes a medical device.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the end effector assembly includes links, the end effector being connected to the links.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the deflecting mechanism is configured to allow the distal member to pivot up to at least 90 degrees relative to an axis of the proximal portion.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the deflecting mechanism is configured to allow the distal member to deflect in only one direction relative to the proximal portion.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is configured to receive a current.

23. - 78. (Canceled)

79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal and distal side gaps are defined by a side portion of the deflecting mechanism.

80 - 81. (Canceled).

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a pivot joins the distal end of the proximal member and the proximal end of the distal member.

83. (Currently Amended) An end effector apparatus comprising:

a flexible insertion ~~section~~ section, a distal portion of which is configured for insertion to a target site ~~wiithin~~ within a living body;

a handle at a proximal end of the insertion section which remains outside of the body when the distal portion of the insertion section is inserted into the body to the target site;

a deflecting mechanism at a distal end of the insertion section, the deflecting mechanism having a proximal member and a distal member pivotally coupled to one

another and open to one another via a proximal end gap in the proximal end of the distal member and a distal end gap in the distal end of the proximal member, the proximal and distal members ~~includinh~~ including proximal and distal side gaps, respectively, the proximal side gap extending to the distal end of the proximal member laterally of the distal end gap and the distal side gap extending to the proximal end of the distal member laterally of the proximal end gap to form a continuous opening with the proximal side gap;

an end effector assembly coupled to the distal end of the deflecting mechanism; and

a first actuator member extending from [[teh]] the handle through the insertion section to couple to the distal member so that actuation of the first actuator member pivots the distal member relative to the proximal member between a longitudinally aligned configuration and a deflected configuration,

wherein the first actuator member extends between the proximal and the distal members via the distal and proximal end gaps when the proximal and distal members are in the longitudinally aligned configuration and extend therebetween via the proximal and distal side gaps when the proximal and distal members are in the deflected configuration.

84. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, further comprising a second actuator member extending from the handle through the insertion section to the end effector assembly to actuate the end effector assembly.

85. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the second actuator member extends between the proximal and distal members via the distal and proximal end gaps when the proximal and distal member are in the longitudinally aligned configuration and extends

therebetween via the proximal and distal side gaps when the proximal and distal members are [[ini]] in the deflected configuration.

86 - 87. (Canceled).

88. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein the proximal and distal side gaps are defined by a side portion of the deflecting mechanism.

89 - 90. (Canceled).

91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 83, wherein a pivot joins the distal end of the proximal member and the proximal end of the distal member.

92 - 101. (Canceled).

102. (Currently Amended) An end effector apparatus comprising:

a flexible insertion section, a distal portion of which is configured for insertion to a target site within a living body;

a deflecting mechanism at a distal end of the insertion section, the deflecting mechanism bending between a longitudinal configuration in which the deflecting mechanism is substantially straight and a deflected configuration in which the deflecting mechanism is bent to form an arc, the deflecting mechanism including a lateral opening extending longitudinally along a portion of a wall thereof;

an end effector assembly coupled to the distal end of the deflecting mechanism;

a first actuator member extending through the insertion section to couple to a distal portion of the deflecting mechanism so that actuation of the first actuator member bending the deflecting member from the longitudinal configuration to the deflected configuration; and

a second actuator member extending through the insertion section to the end effector assembly to actuate the end effector assembly wherein, when the deflecting mechanism is in the deflected configuration, the first and second actuator members extend across the arc outside the deflecting mechanism via the lateral opening and, when the deflecting mechanism is in the aligned configuration, the first and ~~sencond~~ second actuator members are fully received therewithin.